

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a mixture of peptides, having an arginine and lysine content of at least 20 w/w%, based on the ~~protein content~~ total amount of protein, from at least one protein source, comprising the steps of:

- a) cleaving the proteins of at least one protein source into peptides;
- b) allowing the peptides to bind to cation exchange resin;
- c) washing the cation exchange resin with an alkaline wash solution having a normality of 0.05-2.0;
- d) eluting bound peptides from the resin with an aqueous elution solution having an ionic strength of at most 200 mM and a pH between 5.0-9.0.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, comprising between steps b) and c) a prewash step, wherein said cation exchange resin is washed with a prewash solution having an ionic strength of at most 200 mM and a pH between 5.0-9.0.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The process of claim 1, wherein the mixture of peptides has an arginine and lysine content of at least 30 w/w%, based on ~~protein content~~ total amount of protein.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises enzymatic hydrolysis.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein step b) is preceded by a filtration step.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process according to claim 5, wherein the filtration step is carried out with a membrane having a molecular weight cut-off of 10 kDa.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one protein source comprises at least two different proteins.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one protein source is of vegetable origin.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one protein source is chosen from the group, consisting of soy, pea and cotton seed.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the at least one protein source comprises at least 10 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A composition comprising a mixture of arginine- and lysine-rich peptides, comprising at least 20 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 11, comprising at least 10 w/w% arginine and at least 10 w/w% lysine.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 11, comprising at least 30 w/w% arginine and lysine.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The composition of claim 13, comprising at least 15 w/w% arginine and at least 15 w/w% lysine.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A medicament, supplement, beverage or food product comprising the composition of claim 11 as an active compound.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for elevation of nitric oxide blood levels comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method for increasing aerobic capacity and/or decreasing acidification in muscle tissue comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method for prophylaxis and/or treatment of disorders associated with reduced and/or inadequate vasodilation or increased blood platelet aggregation comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18, wherein the disorder is chosen from the group consisting of arteriosclerosis, restenosis, thrombosis, hypertension, impotence and diabetes.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method for stimulating growth hormone levels, stimulating immune response or for improving regulation of blood glucose levels comprising administering to a subject in need thereof the composition of claim 11.